

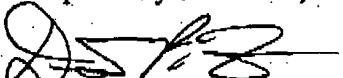
REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 constitute the pending claims in the present application. Applicants have cancelled claims 5 and 7 as being redundant in light of amendments made to claim 1. In a telephonic conference on June 7, 2004, the Examiner requested amendments to claims 2-4 to achieve consonance with the restriction requirement. Applicants have made the requested amendments to expedite allowance of the remaining claims. Nevertheless, Applicants adhere to the position that these claims were properly dependent on claim 1, to which no amendments were requested, and thus should be rejoined pursuant to MPEP 809. Should the Examiner reconsider his position, Applicants request that the Examiner reverse the present amendment to claims 2-4 in an Examiner's amendment to avoid prejudice to Applicants. In any event, Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims of similar or differing scope in subsequent applications.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to Deposit Account No. 18-1945.

Respectfully Submitted,



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